

Ousted CIA Official Continues Criticism

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By John Kendall
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SAN DIEGO—In 26 years of service as a public representative of the Central Intelligence Agency, Donald S. Jordan never came in from the cold of covert operations because he was never in it.

But the 57-year-old intelligence officer suddenly found himself in the chilling climate of the unemployed when he publicly criticized the agency and CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

Jordan was summarily dismissed as chief of the CIA office here Dec. 5 on Turner's orders. He was forced into retirement without a hearing or, he says, an explanation.

On Dec. 5, three agency officials showed up. "I was told 'Look! The admiral's decided you're terminated,'" Jordan recalled. "Now, we have your retirement application here. If you want your retirement, you'll have to fill in these papers. Sign them."

They demanded his office key and ordered a change in the office safe combination. Jordan was through as a CIA man but not as a CIA critic.

In an interview he said that:

- Despite Watergate, despite Congress' investigation of the agency two years ago and despite media exposure of the CIA's drug experiments on unsuspecting persons and other viola-

tions of its charter, the organization remains essentially unchanged.

- No matter who is the CIA director, the agency is run like the military by "elitists" of civil service "super grades" GS-16, 17, and 18s and politically appointed professionals, most of whom are contemptuous of "idiots" in the unwashed general public and who are willing to lie to Congress, if necessary.

- The CIA's domestic collection division is inefficient in gathering intelligence, overstaffed by half and wasteful of taxpayers money. It is a "paper mill" often gathering information that is not only inaccurate, misleading and useless, but also—in some instances—fabricated.

- Despite its vaunted national defense mission, the CIA is as much afflicted with empire-builders as the most mundane federal agency. Ranking bureaucrats playing a "numbers game" in collecting domestic intelligence, are more interested in quantity than quality of reports in order to justify hiring more employees to produce more reports, to expand their areas of responsibility.

- CIA "super grades" and high-level appointees maintain two sets of personnel files on employees who are thought to be "whistle blowers." One file is official, containing periodic fitness reports, and the other is secret, sometimes containing fabricated in-

formation. The clandestine "funny files" are used to control, harass and get rid of CIA employees who disagree or criticize their bosses.

Jordan's knowledge of the CIA's domestic operation comes from more than a quarter century of agency service in five Western cities. A Princeton University graduate, Jordan spent his CIA career publicly representing the agency in Los Angeles, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco and San Diego. He was deputy office chief in Denver, Seattle and San Francisco, and he had headed the San Diego office for more than three years and held a civil service rank of GS-14 when he was fired.

According to Jordan, the CIA's overt division for which he worked and the agency's covert group are "almost like two different organizations."

For half his career he says he considered himself a "whistle blower," who tried to correct perceived faults in the CIA's domestic operations. The effort, he feels, cost him advancement and finally got him fired.

After Jordan's ouster became public, an aide to Turner said Jordan had been fired because of insubordination and because he would not believe old files on employees had been destroyed and no new ones were being kept.

Furthermore, the aide maintained, Jordan had become obsessed with demands that the heads of two operating CIA divisions be fired and that Jordan's work had suffered because he was "too busy campaigning."

Jordan describes the CIA's contentions as "totally false." He characterizes the agency's position as a "continuation of the cover-up of wrongdoing and further damage to me for my opposition to wrongdoing."

His difficulties started, Jordan says, after he became appalled at what he considered abuses in the CIA's domestic operations and became a "whistle blower" to correct them with full realization that he was harming his career.

Under Executive Order 11905, signed

by President Ford in 1976, the CIA has authority to collect foreign intelligence from cooperating domestic sources.

Jordan thinks the mission of gathering information from U.S. citizens who travel abroad or have foreign connections is valid, but he adds there are "very few Americans who can make a real contribution."

Nevertheless, Jordan says, CIA bureaucrats in the domestic collection division waste citizens' time in a "numbers game" and keep score with a computer.

"The problem with the system basically is that we have a quantitative approach to collection. Rather than rating people upon the value of the product they provide or the information they collect, it's run basically on how many intelligence reports a guy can write. It's almost a quota system," he said.

"So, what happens when your quota is a little low . . . The CIA guy will call up someone and say:

"Now, I understand you went to Cuba. Gee! we think you could provide some real valuable information on Cuba. Can I come out and see you?"

"And, actually the CIA man could know in advance that the chance of his learning anything of value is almost nil. That makes no difference. He'll go out and run through a lot of questions and write down the information regardless of whether it has any value or not because he has to have a report."

Sometimes, according to Jordan, an agent intent on meeting a quota may embellish an unproductive interview so much that it is really a fabrication.

"I've been just appalled at how indifferent some high-level officers are to this fabrication: 'OK, so some of it is made up, so what? There are lots of other reports that will correct it, maybe. So it really doesn't hurt. It is making us more reports. It will increase our budget. We'll get a few more people.'"